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REVIEWED BY DEPT. OF STATE	NEA-4 REGRET OF 11-28	INFO RM/R-2 AREP-2 OLI-6 E-4 P-1 EUR-5 IO-4 OTHER Gov-7 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-3 Com-8 I-RR-2

SUBJECT: Bi-Weekly Review, November 1 - 15, 1955 IN-7 Ag-7 Tar-2

Accra-1
Lab-5 HEW-5
Gordon-1
Leopoldville-1
Dakar-1

POLITICAL

Constitutional Convention (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Northern Political leaders who have hithertofor shown reluctance to express definite viewpoints regarding the North's position during next year's convention are scheduled to meet in Kaduna November 15 through 18. The meeting has been announced as a conference of the executive committee of the Northern Peoples Congress, which will consider the party's position regarding constitutional changes. The Northern Premier, the Sardauna of Sokoto announced that he would reject the proposals that he initiate " a summit conference" of the Regional Premiers prior to the convening of the 1956 constitutional convention.

The press has carried considerable comment concerning the future status of the Cameroons Trust Territories. In a press statement from London, Mr. S.A. GEORGE, a KNC leader and an executive member of the Southern Cameroons government, rejected the suggestion that the Northern and Southern sections of the Cameroons be united. George declared that "unification of the area under the British Trust Administration was not so important as the question of severance from Nigeria and unification with the French Cameroons".

In the Cameroons city of Bamenda, leaders of the opposition Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) have joined with representatives of the outlawed French Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC), as well as members of the left-wing Union Democratique de Femmes Camerounaires (UDFC), and the Jeunese Democratique du Cameroun (JDC) to form a Reunification Committee aiming at establishing a united Cameroons nation. The following officers were reportedly elected to the committee: President, Mr. F. R. MOUMIE (President-General, UPC); Vice-President, Mrs. Marie NGAPETH (Secretary-General, UDFC); second Vice-President, Mr. W. P. LEBAGA (Vice-President-General, KNDP); Secretary, Mr. J.N. FONCHA (President-General, KNDP); and Treasurer, Mr. J. NDIOMO (Treasurer, JDC).

HTKrueger
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In the Eastern Region Dr. S. E. IMOKE, Regional Minister of Labor, differed with Premier Azikiwe's plan for 13-state federation by suggesting that Nigeria's states be limited to 4 in order to "avoid the rise of tribalism and waste of money".

Western Premier AWOLOWO continues to advocate a minimum of constitutional change. In his address to the recent Regional Conference of the Action Group party at Ibadan, however, he did agree that a second chamber might be added to the Federal legislature and that the Regions be given control of their police forces. The difficulty with the Senate proposal is that it would have more merit if the number of states were increased - which Awolowo does not want.

Queen's Visit (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Nigerian visit of Queen ELIZABETH and the Duke of Edinburgh in January and February 1956, as reported in D-58, October 27, 1955, continues to generate much interest in political and governmental circles.

Federal Chief Secretary Ralph GRAY was called to London last week to discuss details of the royal visit. Although an itinerary has not been officially announced, it seems that the Queen will perform her Nigerian travel in the Queen's private aircraft. Her party will headquarter in Lagos and the three regional capitals, probably taking short drives to neighboring cities.

Despite many press statements urging her visit to the Cameroons, it is doubtful that the Queen will be able to do so, both because of the brevity of her Nigerian visit and because of the dangerous air approaches to existing landing sites in the Southern Cameroons.

Appointment of Federal, Northern, and Eastern Regional High Court Justices (UNCLASSIFIED)

Justices P.C. HUBBARD, Myles J. ABBOTT, G.L. JOBLING, and A.W. BELLAMY have been appointed judges of the High Court of Lagos.

For the Northern Region, Justice Vahe Robert BAIRAMIAN has been appointed Senior Puisne Judge and will be assisted by Justices W.H. HURLEY and J.A. SMITH.

The Eastern Regional High Court will be staffed by Justices Herbert M. BROWN, C.F. DOVE-EDWIN, H.S. PALMER, and L.N. MBANEFO.

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COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

The above appointments presumably complete the personnel required to man the new Regional Judiciaries established by the 19[illegible] constitution.

Chief Justices for the new regional high courts have previously been reported: W.H. FOSTER-SUTTON, Chief Justice of the Federation, J.H.M. de COMMAMOND for the Federal High Courts of Lagos and the Cameroons, T.A. BROWN for the Northern Region, and Adetokunbo ADEMOLA for the Western Region.

Appointment of Federal Deputy Chief Secretary (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. A.G.H. GARDINER-BROWN, now Colonial Secretary in the Bahamas, has been appointed Deputy Chief Secretary of the Federation of Nigeria. Mr. Gardiner-Brown, who served in the Northern Rhodesian Administrative Service before World War II is expected to arrive in Nigeria in February 1956.

Nigeria to Have Command of Armed Forces (UNCLASSIFIED)

As a result of the second meeting of the Army Advisory Council for West Africa, which met in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria, early in November, the Royal West African Frontier Forces will be divided on July 1, 1956, into three separate commands for the Gold Coast, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone/Gambia, respectively.

The council's official announcement explained that the general constitutional advance of the West African territories had shown the advisability of the setting up of separate commands. The announcement emphasized, however, that the new forces would continue to cooperate on matters of training, equipment, and coordination of West African defence under the aegis of the present Army Advisory Council.

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ECONOMIC

Electric Power Plant for Ondo (UNCLASSIFIED)

The installation of an electric plant to serve the long-felt needs of Ondo in the Western Region was discussed at a recent meeting of the Ondo Central District Council. According to a previously completed survey the cost of the installation would be about £40,000. Arrangements have been completed to raise this money on loan from the Western Regional Government.

Oji River Power Project in Eastern Region (UNCLASSIFIED)

Approximately 300,000 families in Eastern Nigeria will be supplied with electricity when the Oji River power project is completed. Part of the project has already been completed and will supply electricity to Onitsha, Enugu, Awka, and Abakaliki. The total cost will be £1,500,000.

Increased Tonnage Carried By Nigerian Railway (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Nigerian Railway Corporation carried 750,000 tons of produce during the twelve month period ending October 31 which is the highest tonnage ever carried by the railroad in one year. The bulk of this tonnage was made up of groundnuts, cocoa, cotton lint, seeds, hides and skins, benniseed, soya beans and palm produce. The remarkable progress made in the transportation of these products is attributed mainly to new additions to the rolling stock. This includes twenty-nine new locomotives, eight diesel engines, eight new third-class coaches, 183 goods wagons and twenty-three wagons rebuilt in Nigeria. With the completion of the current improvement program on stations and freight depots it is hoped that the speed and efficiency of handling goods will be further accelerated.

Possible Oil In Nigeria (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. I. R. SAWDY, Public Relations Officer of Shell D'Arcy Petroleum Development Company stated at a press interview that "there are still hopes that oil may be found in commercial quantities in Nigeria". From the geological information at the disposal of the company he stated that it would be surprising if oil in commercial quantity were not found. The search, he revealed may be continued for another five years after which time it will probably be abandoned if no oil is struck. A total of £12,000,000 has been spent by the company in its search for oil, and it is prepared to spend more. According to Mr. Sawdy all regions have been covered with prospects looking brightest in Eastern Nigeria.

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Mine Losses Due to Recent Strike (UNCLASSIFIED)

The recent strike in the plateau minesfields, previously reported, which ended at midnight Thursday November 3 after a duration of eighteen days cost the mining companies an estimated total loss of 332 tons of tin and columbite. A total of twelve major companies and an unspecified group of small producers were affected by the strike. During the strike thirty-seven people were arrested for alleged tin stealing from mining areas.

Possible Competition for Nigerian Cocoa Producers (UNCLASSIFIED)

Considerable concern is being shown among Nigerian cocoa producers over the proposed £200,000 cocoa company being floated to supplement the present inadequate world supply of cocoa by opening up plantations in Malaya. The project is sponsored jointly by the Colonial Development Corporation, and chocolate makers, Cadbury Brothers, C.J. Van Houten and Zoon, and Harrison and Crosfield, the original planters and merchants who will act as managing agents. The standing and total resources of the sponsors indicate that the original sum of £200,000 is merely a token of the scheme's potential importance. Production is expected to start within five years after the planting of 1,000 acres of new trees by the company.

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LABOR

Arbitrator's Awards in Cameroons Labor Dispute (UNCLASSIFIED)

Dr. Eni NJOKU, who has acted as Arbitrator in the Cameroons Development Corporation labor dispute (see D-47, October 5, 1955, p.7) has announced wage increases from 5 pence to one shilling per day for the workers concerned.

The new general labor rate, which is applicable to more than 80 per cent of the Corporation's employees, will be increased by 5 pence, from 2/4d to 2/9d, with an annual increment of one penny every two years, maximum wage to be 3/1d. Special labor and artisans' wages will be increased by 7 pence or one shilling, depending upon the category. The new rates are retroactive to April 1, 1955.

The net cost to the Corporation will not be as large as the wage increases indicate, however, since the arbitrator has agreed that the CDC is entitled to discontinue subsidization of workers' schools, meals, and general commodities sold in company stores.

Hanna Returns to Nigeria (OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Mr. Hilton E. HANNA, American trade union official who attended the recent ICFTU meeting in Accra (see D-47, p.7), has returned to Nigeria to spend several weeks in this country before returning to the United States.

Mr. Hanna was extremely disappointed by the meeting in Accra and was especially critical at the lack of organization and leadership occasioned by the departure for the United Kingdom of Mr. Albert HAMMERTON, resident representative of ICFTU in the Gold Coast. From his general comments, Mr. Hanna appears to feel that the majority of Nigerian trade unionists are perhaps more sincere and susceptible to Western guidance than are their Gold Coast counterparts.

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EDUCATION

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization To Advise on Eastern University (UNCLASSIFIED)

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has agreed to provide expert advice for the government of Eastern Nigeria on the establishment of the proposed University of Nigeria through its expanded program of technical assistance. The mission will consist of a team of University administrators who will study the problems in Eastern Nigeria for a period of about three months and report their findings to the Regional Government.

It is also understood that four UNESCO experts will be sent to Eastern Nigeria. One of these will remain there for approximately three months to advise on the reorganization of curriculum and syllabus at primary school level. A second, a school architect and engineer, will assist on the school building program and will advise on engineering and architectural matters. A third will concentrate on vocational guidance and placement. He will work jointly with the Education and Labor departments, and a fourth will advise the Government on its primary school teacher training program.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Apparently the agreement for UN assistance was obtained by Eastern Regional Premier AZIKIWE and Eastern Regional Minister of Education AKPABIO during their recent visit to the United States. Zik was reportedly disappointed by the lack of tangible - i.e., financial - assistance offered the projected university by American foundations.

Educational Crisis in the Eastern Region (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

As a result of a serious breakdown in local government in many sections of the Eastern Region, schools are closing because they lack the funds to pay the teachers' salaries.

The situation stems from the change from locally-collected school fees to the obtainal of funds by a general education tax rate; such rates, which are supposed to be collected by the local government bodies, are heavily in arrears. A recent meeting of education and administration officials in Calabar Province reported to the Eastern Regional Government that approximately 30 per cent of the provincial primary schools would be closed by the first of the year unless the Regional Government provided £50,000 to pay the arrears of teachers' salaries. It is understood that the request has been denied by Enugu.

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COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Probably the only answer to the present situation lies in a return to the previous arrangement whereby the missionary organizations (who operate the majority of primary schools on a reimbursible basis) would obtain funds from local education committees rather than from local government bodies.

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American Consul General

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Department: Please pouch copies to Accra, London, Leopoldville, and Dakar.